

STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 54

\$100,000 in Stimulus Funds Spent on Film Festival

- Using \$100,000 in stimulus funding, the Missouri Valley Community Action Agency held the “Show Me Social Justice Film Festival” last weekend. The film festival, held in Warrensburg, included 21 films on issues ranging from poverty to health care, food and wine tastings, lectures, workshops, and a craft sale.
- However, the Missouri Department of Social Services indicated that using federal dollars to fund a festival is not permitted for a Community Services Block Grant, which is how the Missouri Valley Community Action Agency received the \$100,000. Scott Rowson, a spokesman for the Missouri Department of Social Services, said, “The event has kind of exceeded the extent of the original grant proposal. It’s not really something that can be permissible.” Mr. Rowson went on to say that the State of Missouri would seek to recover the misspent funds.
- With Missouri’s current unemployment rate at 9.2%, misspending \$100,000 on an un-permissible film festival, won’t create the jobs Missourians need.
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, \$100,000 in taxpayer funds would not be spent on a film festival. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- **Source:**
<http://www.kansascity.com/2010/09/09/2211290/use-of-federal-stimulus-funds.html>

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip’s website:
<http://republicanwhip.house.gov/blog/wwindex.html>

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus.